

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) A fire-resistant composite yarn comprising:
 - flame-retarded fibers in a quantity greater than 40% with respect to the total weight of the yarn, the said fibers being formed on the basis of a crystalline or semi-crystalline polymeric material;
 - hydrophilic fibers in a quantity of between 10% and 45% with respect to the weight of flame-retarded fibers, the said hydrophilic fibers being formed by a non-fusible material;
 - thermostable fibers in a quantity of between 4% and 50% with respect to the total weight of the yarn, the said thermostable fibers being formed by a non-flammable material.
2. (original) A yarn according to Claim 1, characterised in that the polymeric material forming the basis of the flame-retardant fibers is chosen from the group comprising polyesters, polypropylenes and polyvinyl alcohols.
3. (original) A yarn according to Claim 2, characterised in that the flame-retarded fibers also comprise a flame-retarded polymeric material.
4. (original) A yarn according to Claim 2, characterised in that the flame-retarded fibers are treated with a flame-retardant agent.
5. (currently amended) A yarn according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, characterised in that the hydrophilic fibers

are produced from a natural or artificial cellulosic material such as cotton, viscose, or rayon or based on wool.

6. (currently amended) A yarn according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1, characterised in that the hydrophilic fibers are treated so as to be at least partially flame retarded.

7. (currently amended) A yarn according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 6~~ Claim 1, characterised in that the thermostable fibers are produced from a polymeric material chosen from the group comprising para-aramids, meta-aramids, polybenzimidazole-imides, polybenzoxazoles, polyacrylates, polyphenols, polyamide-imides and poly-p-phenylenediamine-terephthalamides (PPTA or M5).

8. (currently amended) A yarn according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 7~~ Claim 1, characterised in that the fibers forming the yarn are mixed intimately.

9. (original) A yarn according to Claim 8, characterised in that it comprises between 4% and 20% by weight thermostable fibers.

10. (currently amended) A yarn according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 7~~ Claim 1, characterised in that it comprises a core yarn formed with the thermostable fibers and, associated around the said core yarn, a coating formed from an intimate mixture of the flame-retarded fibers and hydrophilic fibers.

11. (original) A yarn according to Claim 10, characterised in that it comprises between 20% and 50% by weight thermostable fibers.

12. (currently amended) A textile intended for producing

protective clothing, characterised in that it comprises at least one woven or knitted textile layer formed with yarns according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 11~~ Claim 1.

13. (currently amended) A textile according to Claim 12, characterised in that the textile layer is dyed or printed.

14. (currently amended) A textile according to Claim 12 [[or 13]], characterised in that it comprises, associated with the textile layer, a non-flammable impermeable/breathable layer.